



PLACER COUNTY
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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Friday, October 7, 2005 1 p.m.
Date/Time of Occurrence Wednesday, October 5, 2005 2:30 p.m.
Nature of Event: Seat Belt Checkpoint a Success
Location of Call: Taylor Road, Loomis

Released by: Dena Erwin, CSO, (530) 889-6922

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

The 90-minute seat belt checkpoint conducted Wednesday afternoon in Loomis by the Placer County Sheriff's Department resulted in 17 citations for seat belt and child restraint violations. A dozen more verbal warnings were also given.

According to Sheriff's Deputy and Loomis traffic officer Bob Brodovsky, more than 1,500 vehicles passed through the checkpoint, which was set up at the intersection of Taylor Road and Walnut Street from 2:30 to 4 p.m. While about 99 percent of drivers complied with seat belt laws, some drivers flagrantly disregarded the law. One young female driver hid a 3-year-old under a sweatshirt on her lap. After being pulled over, she attempted to hide the child on the floorboards of the rear seat. There were five adults in the compact vehicle and no child car seat. A woman in another car attempted to hide her marijuana pipe in her open beer container.

"I'm pleased with the high compliance rate of drivers in Loomis," said Brodovsky. "We'll all be much safer if everyone wears their seat belts."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, lap-shoulder belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat occupants by 45-73 percent and the risk of moderate-to-critical injuries by 44-78 percent, depending on the type of vehicle and seating position involved. Seat belts are also credited with preventing 11,900 fatalities and 325,000 serious injuries annually.

California law states that children under the age of six years or under 60 pounds must be secured in safety seats and must ride in the rear seat of a passenger vehicle, with certain exceptions. Infants less than one year of age or weighing less than 20 pounds must ride in the back, no exceptions, if there is an active passenger air bag in the front seat.